

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**The U.S. – Oman FTA Does Not Relinquish Our Right
to Restrict Access to U.S. Ports**

Dear Colleague:

Critics of the U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have manufactured an issue with the text of the agreement and claim that it gives foreign service suppliers unprecedented access to U.S. ports and thereby endangers U.S. security. This is nothing more than a red herring.

In fact, the U.S. – Oman FTA, like previous FTAs, simply treats Omani landside service suppliers and investors no less favorably than our own landside service suppliers and investors. However, the agreement does not allow foreign suppliers to control, manage, or operate any U.S. port. This vital function remains the responsibility of U.S. port authorities.

Nothing in the U.S. – Oman FTA circumvents the Exon-Florio Amendment to the Defense Production Act of 1950, authorizing the President to block proposed foreign investment in the U.S. that threatens U.S. national security.

Under the agreement, the interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States will still monitor foreign investment in the U.S. to ensure proposed transactions do not threaten national security. Further, if the President blocks a transaction in order to protect the national security, it would be fully consistent with the obligations of the U.S. – Oman FTA.

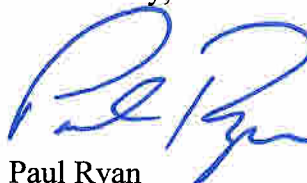
In other words, this agreement not only preserves the right of the U.S. to review foreign investment transactions in order to ensure the national security, but it also expressly permits the U.S. to block transactions which do not meet our own standard of review.

Critics will undoubtedly continue to manufacture reasons to oppose the U.S. – Oman FTA. Yet, the facts remain perfectly clear: this agreement contains strong provisions to protect the national security, bolsters ties with a critical ally in the Middle East, reinforces Oman's commitments on labor, and provides new export opportunities for U.S. employers. We encourage you to support the U.S. – Oman FTA.

Sincerely,



Phil English
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress